AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 11 as follows:

The all-0s first columns of the (8, 3) orthogonal codes are punctured. Then, the punctured (7, 3) codes ~~are~~ repeated five times (<u>that is,</u> the punctured (7, 3) codes occur five consecutive times <u>(the original punctured code plus four repetitions)</u>) and three bold underlined columns of each fifth repeated codeword are punctured. As a result, codewords of length 32 are produced. A code resulting from puncturing all 0s-columns in a matrix of orthogonal codes is called a simplex code. In other words, the simplex code is a $(2^k, k)$ orthogonal code (or a first order Reed-Muller code) with the first column having all 0s removed. Hence, the simplex code has length $(2^k-1, k)$. Simplex codes include (3, 2) codes, (15, 4) codes, (31, 5) codes, (63, 6) codes, (127, 7) codes, and (255, 8) codes as well as the (7, 3) codes.